Auction of lustre-lost wheat

5300. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have floated open tender to auction lustre-lost quality of wheat currently held in FCI buffers;

(b) if so, whether the flour millers of the North and of Andhra Pradesh have been barred from bidding; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the fact that procurement of wheat is currently being undertaken in the Northern Region, the FCI called tenders from bidders in the non-procuring States alone to prevent any chance of recycling. Roller Flour Mills of Andhra Pradesh have not been barred from bidding for wheat.

Revamping PDS

5301. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Public Distribution System is corruption-ridden and there is an immediate need to streamline and revamp it;

(b) if so, the action plan devised by Government to make the system complaint-free and people-friendly; and

(c) the number of complaints received, the number of cases where grievances were redressed, the number of cases still pending and the number of corrupt officials booked for action during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK